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Michael Ullman

2 February 1961

CONTACT REPORT

SUBJECT: Meeting with Guillermo Alfonso Pujol, 18 January 1961, at the Hotel Pierre, New York City

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1. Mr. [Barroso] using the alias Roberto, accompanied me to the meeting. Pujol had brought along a young chap, Garball.

2. Pujol started the meeting with a direct question: Will ~~Castro~~ continue in view of the changes in administration? My answer was in the affirmative: As a private American citizen, changes in the administration would not affect me in any case, but there is no indication that even under the new administration there would be any change in our work.

3. Pujol then asked how long it would take before the invasion of Cuba would be launched. I answered to this that I did not know at this moment but even if I did, such information, as Pujol well understood, would have to be treated with absolute secrecy.

4. Pujol then said that he would first talk about the crisis facing the PDC and then could give me his proposal as to how to solve it. Concerning the crisis within the PDC, Pujol reiterated the factors of which we are already quite familiar:

a. Pujol deplored the Executive Committee of the PDC and the fact that its representatives are not representing the Cuban people.

b. He spoke of the internal squabbles within the Executive Committee such as Carillo conspiring together with Miro, Mestre, Gaviria, ~~Castro~~, ~~Castro~~, ~~Castro~~ and Col. ~~Castro~~ against ~~Castro~~ and other members; ~~Castro~~ and ~~Castro~~ conspiring against the others, and Pujol felt that their Agrarian Reform Program was too leftist to suit anybody's taste.

c. Pujol spoke of the political strife within the camp: Martin Elena was not accepted by the PDC Executive Committee nor would he accept it; a special Cuban team sent from Chastania to Miami had been undercutting Elena's authority; the exiled Navy had revolted.

d. Pujol spoke about the terrible ~~Castro~~ program and the need to curb the Communist editorial policy of the New York Times and the Fair Play Committee for Cuba.

e. Pujol said that the 60-man PDC Commission continues to imply that the PDC considers itself to be the future political government of Cuba.

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5. How can this crisis be solved Mr. Pujol asked.

6. Mr. Pujol informed me that on or about the 25th of January Carlos Prio would issue a statement in Miami announcing his break with Castro. Mr. Pujol said that he had written this statement for Prio and that it had been cleared with President Franklin.

7. The importance of Mr. Prio as an asset in the anti-Castro fight should not be underestimated. There are two big anti-Castro forces in Cuba, one is the DIA and the other is the Artherito. Prio's open break with Castro will give tremendous importance to the Artherito's activities in Cuba. Thus, Mr. Pujol proposed that the Executive Committee of the FID be organized in a manner designed to incorporate into the group talented people who were nationally and internationally known: Prio, Pujol, Jose Manuel Cárdenas (President of the 1940 Constitutional Committee) Alvarez Diaz, Carbo, Miro Cárdenas and Guillermo Bautista. The function of this FID Executive Committee would be to implement U.S. policy which is given to it by the Dendor Group, to front for the military effort necessary to overthrow Castro and to select the provisional Government. Regarding the latter Pujol felt that: waters of this provisional government should not be eligible for election, the government should be based clearly on the 1940 constitution, the application of Cuban equality before the law, moral pacification of the country, repeal all Castro laws which conflict with the 1940 constitution, and take such measures that should be necessary for an orderly transition from a provisional government to a freely-elected constitutional government. Economic, social, political and cultural reforms should be submitted to the freely-elected constitutional government and should not be handled by the provisional government. Throughout all this Mr. Pujol made it clear that this scheme would work only if the American Government and the Dendor Group make it clear that they are running the show.

8. Pujol continued to say that after the committee had been organized as outlined above, the commissions of the FID should be reorganized also. The Planning Commission should be reduced to four men which would act as an advisory board, the General Staff should be given clear responsibility, the Bureaucracy should be reduced at least 60 percent, and FID delegations to Latin American countries should be beefed up to get local support for eventual recognition of the provisional government.

9. Pujol said that the newly-constituted Executive Committee would appoint three Cubans to be the "coordinators" of other political groups in Miami and would be charged with a simple set of basic provisions on the basis of which the majority of anti-Castro groups could unite. Pujol said that all of these groups should be told that this is what they wanted and that they are "either with us or against us."

10. The sum total was, in the opinion of the undersigned, for all purposes to reconstitute the Artherito party in exile and to let it be known in Cuban circles that the Artherito party has support in the U.S. I thanked Mr. Pujol for his presentation and added that I would not sit on his proposals but would pass them on to the appropriate people.

GERALD FROELICH